

Viva!

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12 Queen Square • Brighton • E. Sussex BN1 3FD

Tel: 01273 777688 • Fax: 01273 776755

Website: www.viva.org.uk • E-mail: info@viva.org.uk

August 26, 1999

DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305)
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
5630 FISHERS LANE, ROOM 1061
ROCKVILLE, MD 20852

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197 and the issue of egg-borne diseases.

Recent experience/history has made it clear that the treatment of animals raised for food and the methods of their slaughter has a considerable impact on human health. More examples of such are becoming known to the public and to health officials regularly. Examples of course are BSE and E-Coli.

One more example is the acknowledgment by the USDA's Food & Safety Inspection Service that the forced molting of hens for egg production leads to the increased shedding of Salmonella enteritidis. Before more people in the U.S. die or get ill from contaminated eggs, it is the responsibility of the FDA to take action.

Forced molting is a horrific practice started by farmers wanting to manipulate the hen's egg production. Water deprivation and extended starvation of animals not only causes the public to become ill, but is cruel and unnecessary. Eggs are packed with cholesterol and are unhealthy.

Factors such as the living conditions of the hens must be considered. Hens in the wild would normally lay 20 eggs a year; in these farms they are forced to lay approximately 275 eggs a year. It is a foregone conclusion that when you cram about five birds in a caged area the size of folded newspaper, diseases and other problems are going to arise. Such disease will then be passed on to the human consumers of the eggs.

The FDA must take an initial step to ensure the public safety and try to eliminate some of the suffering of these animals by prohibiting the practice of forced molting. You have the jurisdiction, responsibility and authority to ban farm practices, such as forced molting, that injure human health. I strongly urge you to do so in this instance.

The cruelty and the contamination are irrevocably linked. In April, 1998 you were petitioned to ban forced molting. This petition must be granted without further delay.

Sincerely,

Lauren
Lauren Ornelas Sullivan
U.S. Campaigns Director
P.O. Box 472284
San Francisco, CA 94147

98N 1230

C445

Viva! USA
P.O. Box 472284
San Francisco, CA
94147



Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD
20852

20857/0003



CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number:

98N-1230/ C445

See File Number:

97P-0197/ C446
96P-0418/ C445